

CLAIMS

1. Compositions in the form of an aqueous bioadhesive gel for the delivery of active ingredients and/or principles, comprising hydroxyethylcellulose as the only gelling and bioadhesive agent,
2. ~~Compositions in the form of an aqueous gel, as claimed in claim 1, for the intravaginal delivery of active ingredients and/or principles.~~
3. ~~Compositions as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further containing glycerol, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, surfactants, preservatives and acidifiers.~~
- 10 2. Compositions as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~3~~, containing 1 to 5% by weight of hydroxyethylcellulose, 25 to 90% by weight of water, 5 to 25% by weight of glycerol, 5 to 50% by weight of diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, 0.01 to 10% by weight of surfactants, 0.05 to 1% by weight of preservatives, and 0.01 to 1% by weight of acidifiers.
- 15 3. Compositions as claimed in any of claims 1 to <sup>2</sup>~~4~~, containing as active constituents antifungals, antiseptics and antimicrobials, antibiotics, analgesics, local anaesthetics, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, contraceptives, hormones, or combinations thereof.
4. Compositions as claimed in claim <sup>2</sup>~~3~~, wherein the active ingredient is selected from econazole, miconazole, fluconazole, cyclopiroxolamine, nifuratel, nystatin, chlorhexidine, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen, benzydamine, benzalkonium chloride or other quaternary ammonium antiseptics, and nonoxynol-9.